

Nursery, Landscape and Floral Research/Education

Call for 2016 Proposals

Each year, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee (ISDA), in cooperation with the Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, awards financial grants to support research/education efforts that would benefit the Idaho nursery, landscape and floral industry. These grants are primarily funded by the nursery industry itself through the collection of a Nursery Research Assessment Fee collected by the ISDA from each nursery license issued. Proposals are now being sought for the 2016 project year. **Proposals must be sent via e-mail or post marked on or before October 15, 2015.**

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Proposal forms and guidelines can be obtained at the ISDA Internet Web Site address listed below:

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/PlantsInsects/Documents/NurseryAdvisoryCommittee/ResearchProposalFundingRequest.pdf>

All research/education proposals should be for **one-year duration only**.

A brief written **mid-year report** and a detailed **final report** setting forth the research/education results are required as part of the grant process. These written reports must follow specific guidelines, which are available at the above mentioned website.

Funding for all approved projects is provided in the following allotments: 50% paid upon project approval and 50% paid upon receipt and approval of the Final report.

Research/education project proposals are reviewed, evaluated and prioritized by the members of the Idaho Nursery and Florists Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from the nursery and floral industry, the University of Idaho, and ISDA. Final approval and grant awards will be made by the Committee in January of 2016.

While all submissions are encouraged, the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association Research Committee have compiled the following list of suggested research topics that would benefit the Idaho Nursery, Landscape and Florist industry.

INLA Recommendations for 2016 Grant Projects

The genetic makeup of deer resistant plants: What is in the genetic code of some plants that make them undesirable to deer? Can we take a sequence of genomes from a deer resistant variety and place them in some highly regarded ornamentals? The same thing can be said for gophers, moles and voles. (This is a long term project.)

Grower practices and regimens that would increase winter hardiness in woody plants: This could include a study of overwintering containerized nursery stock and establishing a data base to determine low temperature tolerances for the root zones of various species.

Ornamental hops are still in demand within the state but have problems with powdery mildew. Our retailers are asked more and more for hops with the push lately for organic gardening and self-sustaining gardening practices. Can we find/produce some powdery mildew resistant varieties for our retailers?

What the public interest are for plant varieties, etc. What consistently performs well in Idaho areas?

Soil amendment recommendations for soils in treasure valley so we do a better job at helping people be successful with their gardens. Ongoing research on how to create sustainable gardens, and related. Research that supports finding simple and effective ways to create healthy environments. Regional soil quality charts & public education and brochures.

Research on how detrimental to native species the utilization of traditional plant materials are - if it is at all- due to their differing benefits and highly specialized breeding/cloning.

Research on how society's mentality is or is not changing towards xeric/natives in a more formal landscape setting.

Plant disease and treatment.

Native plant seed germination and native plant properties in landscaping.

Marketing green goods and to what target audience.

White pine weevil.

Development of growing indoors, greenhouses. Growing food year round.

I would like some more information on the accuracy of the new zone map and some actual research on how well most or all zone 7 plant material does in our area. It would be nice to create an Idaho Planting Guide based on all plant material that will grow here including micro-climates.

Landscape Value Return on investment Increased sales potential due to landscape

Propagation techniques for native and drought tolerant plants, adding to the firewise research done by the BLM, research on alternative turf or lower water turf choices; weed management in foothills restoration processes, drip irrigation for vegetable production, drip irrigation for turf, urban fruit pest control using OMRI or certified organic products for pest control, growing and producing vegetable seed

Plant, Tree diseases & Insect (Public information programs)

Evergreen diseases and diagnostics

Tools for Diagnosing Plant Problems

Find any past evidence that would support the positive effects of an association marketing campaign.

Watering practices for healthy plants.

The effects of over-watering & over fertilization

Invasive species in the greenhouse - how to address them

Marketing data re who is gardening in the greater treasure valley

Research/polls on what consumers are purchasing and why

Tangible/legitimate research on GMO controversy

Ways that seasonal businesses can feasibly employ workers year-round, i.e. off-season production avenues